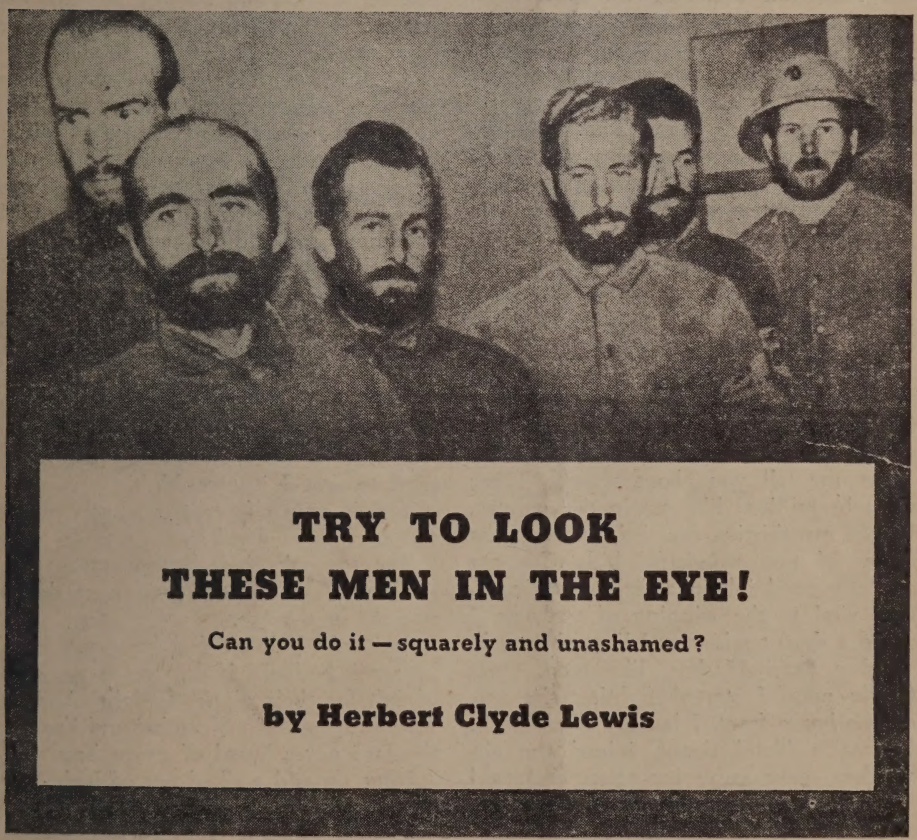
The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME I JANUARY, 1943 NUMBER 4



TRY TO LOOK THESE MEN IN THE EYE!

Can you do it — squarely and unashamed?

by Herbert Clyde Lewis

I was drinking a Daiquiri and debating whether to order the $2 filet mignon or the $1.75 sirloin steak when my eyes lit on that picture in the magazine.

Joe's Chophouse was crowded. My wife wasn't able to join me for dinner because she was shopping for a new coat, but I didn't mind dining alone at Joe's. In fact I had become one of Joe's steadiest customers. It was a pleasure merely to roll one of his Daiquiris around your tongue, or to eat of his famous steaks.

Yes, it was a pleasure—until I saw that picture.

I picked up the magazine and looked at the picture. It showed six American Marines in a Jap concentration camp in Shanghai. The Japs originally published

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

OFFICERS OF THE
HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY
President—Dr. George L. Steele
Vice-President—Dr. E. A. Knowlton
Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. Wayne C. Barnes

it in one of their propaganda sheets. An American diplomat who was repatriated managed to smuggle it home. An American magazine had published it, and here it was at my table at Joe's.

You can see the picture for yourself, reproduced on this page. These men are Americans and most of them are not 30 years old, in spite of their prison-camp beards and mustaches. "Smile! Look happy!"—one can almost hear the Jap photographer hissing the commands. And this was their reply—these faces you see starting back proudly, defiantly, and a little contemptuously.

Only now, these men seemed to be staring at me with eyes cynical and mocking as I lifted my glass and drained my drink.

Let me tell you about myself. There must be millions like me in the country. I'm in my thirties, married 10 years, the father of two wonderful kids. I've got a pretty good job in a field that's probably vital to the winning of the war. I make a decent salary and live fairly well.

After Pearl Harbor, like most other family men, I started fighting the war on the home front. I bought War Bonds, became a blood donor, joined the air-wardens, gave away my scrap, and paid my taxes. My wife and I did all that, and more, pretty thoroughly.

At least, we did for a while.

But then, as the months dragged by, something happened to me, something that might be called patriotic dry rot. Slowly I began to lose my drive as a home-front fighter. Slowly I began to indulge myself beyond all reason in expensive food and other luxuries and a desperate sort of merriment.

I still can't explain it fully. Partly, I believe, it was the absence of any real feeling of accoplishment in my home-front work.

At any rate, the war began to seem remote—"something that was happening to two other guys." I gave up my civilian-defense activities. My War Bond purchases lagged. I gossiped a lot about "Washington inefficiency" and "English stupidity," and once, to my utter disgrace, I bought five gallons of gas that I wasn't entitled to.

And now here I was at Joe's, with those bearded American prisoners of war star-at me.

Suddenly I realized with an overwhelming sense of shame that I wasn't able to look any of them straight in the eye. I tried to, but I just couldn't.

Try it yourself—wherever you are as you read these words.

Try to look these young men—these American sons of the man next door—straight in the eye.

Suddenly I didn't feel hungry. These boys will be lucky if they get some scraps of fish for their dinner tonight. And the winters are cold in Shanghai and I'm sure the Japs never heard of steam heat.

I got up and walked out of Joe's, after paying for my drinks.

What I thought later, as I rode home on the subway, is important, because it snapped me out of my lethargy. I hope it

Address Correspondence to:
Dr. W. A. R. Chapin
121 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Mass.
Telephone 2-7213

Raleigh Drug Co.
DRUGGISTS
190 State Street Springfield

Professional Bldg. Pharmacy
Inc.
18 Maple Street Springfield

does the same to you.

The war seemed awfully near to me now. I had to get these boys out. That was my job, that was what I had to do.

"Brother," I found myself saying to these Marines, "it's only sheer luck that it's me, not you, going home to my nice warm house in the suburbs. Brother, I'm sorry I let you down, but it's going to be different from now on. I'll tighten my belt a few notches and do whatever I'm supposed to do. Maybe my part in this fight won't be as spectacular as yours or a lot of other people's, but I'll do it thoroughly and uncomplainingly. And anybody who tries to stop me is going to get smacked right on the nose. Brother, some day after we get you home, if I ever run into you I'm going to look you straight in the eye!"

Neither the politically minded Goebbels and Himmler, it would seem, nor the militarist von Bock and all the other current vons, can approach any nearer to the realization of the eternal truth of the strength of meekness than did Erich Ludendorff of Posen, or, for that matter, Bismarck and von Moltke. Yet what human beings could be meeker than were those German doctors of philosophy who dedicated their entire lives, in those early years of this twentieth century to single problems in chemistry? They existed in the acme of modesty on the barest minimum with the hope of eventual enrichment through important discoveries. By their selfless devotion to the chemical progress of the Fatherland, Germany was in a fair way to inherit the earth just before the outbreak of the first World War. The chest of the German dye trust bulged with priceless formulae which the rest of the world could obtain for substantial considerations, and the health of humanity in general depended upon secret German formulae.

But the politico-military school, true to Teutonic tradition, was not satisfied with any sunless status short of world domination. As you know, the Germans lost chemical dominance along with the political dream when necessity successfully mothered inventiveness in chemists of many other lands, particularly Britain and the United States. Incidentally twenty million promising youths paid the price in full, and others are still in debt after twenty-five years.

Now again, in the second World War, bullet-headed German generals, still hidebound by tradition, are sacrificing not only millions of youths, but women, children and oldsters in their insatiable craving for world domination. For worse than losing world leadership in chemistry and physics, they have rendered the very name of Germany an abomination in the light of history.

Atabrine, for instance, in spite of Prussian trickery, is saving the lives of Allied troops day by day in South Sea jungles, thanks to our resourceful chemists; whereas, ironically, those idolatrous subjects of Hirohito, though allies of Germany, are falling like flies for the lack of it from the ravages of malaria. The height of the irony lies in the fact that multi-millions of salvaged lives now might be blessing the name of Germany and paying her grateful tribute both with and without price, if the teaching of St. Matthew had been heeded instead of Moloch's, or the Song of the Psalmist which predicted that the meek not only shall inherit the earth, but shall "delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Verily, the test tube is mightier than the sword, though not so thick as a German noodle!

Dentists & Surgeons Supply Co.
340 Bridge Street
Springfield Massachusetts

Harris Pharmacy
139 Chestnut Street
Springfield Massachusetts

With the present issue, number four, the Hampden Hippocrat writes finis to volume one. And the first year of World War II, for the United States, also has passed into the archives.

It is for the members of the Hampden District Medical Society, assembled in the annual meeting, to decide whether this shall be merely number one, or the one and only volume, doomed to fill a very thin niche in the Library of Medical Curiosa, to gather dust and cobwebs, a veritable war-time ration for worms.

During the year, medical problems have been examined and discussed; war services of members noted and correspondence published with sundry other items. Likewise a modicum of ads was solicited and all debts are paid, if you will accept this acknowledgment of our appreciation of your patience with our misprints and greater or lesser lapses. Incredibly enough, your guarantee fund remains intact!

As for continuance of publication, let us remind you that Confucius long since expressed himself along this line: "There is no one who does not eat and drink. But few there are who really know flavor." Again, he added on learning that Tsai Yu slept in the day time, as others do even today, "There is no use trying to carve a piece of rotten wood, or to whitewash a wall made of earth from a dunghill. Why should I bother to scold him?" The teacher must also have been an editor.

What of this fateful New Year 1943? obviously all is not well with the world when whole nations starve and fanatics resort to massacres more cruel than Tamerlane's. The Soothsayer is silent, but the sky at least is brighter in the East.

The Commander-in-Chief, in his report on the state of the Nation, declared that progress from now on shall be forward in ever increasing strength. And we in civilian ranks are glad to pull in our belts and walk if it will keep our legions moving in that hopeful direction. As a matter of fact, the process should benefit both the individual and the Nation by metabolizing away our complacency along with surplus fat.

What better example for this New Year could we ask than that which Jacob Riis recorded in his account book, as revealed by his son, Roger William?* "On hand, $4.445 to begin the New Year. So, at forty-six, I spend all I earn, own a house with a mortgage on it. Well, it isn't wealth, but isn't it enough? Let us see what else I have: the best wife that ever lived; good children who will, I hope, stand up for the right and fight for it; a place of usefulness; friends good and true. What more can a man want? . . . I am truly richer than most people. I won't make any New Year's resolutions, but I will try to deserve my blessings better than I have."

---

* Reader's Digest, December, 19442.

The evening papers of January 18th tell us that a 6-0 decision by the Supreme Court has upheld the conviction of the A. M. A. in the District of Columbia suit. We are a part of the A. M. A. Our county is but one—but we are one and in this county the Hippocrat is our news front. We must keep informed and interested.

Due to gas and tire rationing the Massachusetts Medical Society's annual meeting will be in Boston next June. It was slated for Springfield.

The County Society will be asked to endorse the Red Cross drive this coming March at the January 26th meeting.

It is reported that ninety-three physicians in America subscribed $11,000 toward the Physicians Committee. This committee has succeeded in enlisting about 300 Congressmen in defense of free choice of physicians and against the regimentation of medicine in America. Our Congressmen are of this number.

Massachusetts Wholesale Drug Co., Inc.

181 Taylor Street Springfield

Civilian Defense

Some changes in the organization of Civilian Defense have been authorized which should be given more publicity. Springfield, Chicopee, West Springfield, Holyoke, Palmer, Westfield, Northampton, Easthampton, and Greenfield have been designated by the National Office of Civil Defense as priority towns. The organizations and personnel in these cities are unchanged, but all supplies for them come hereafter from Washington through local Supply Officers already appointed. This state continues to supply, so far as possible, all the other towns in Region II.

Dr. William A. R. Chapin who has done an excellent job organizing Hampden District for Civilian Defense has resigned as Deputy Medical Director for Hampden. He feels, and rightly so, that his task as Medical Examiner would demand all his time should a calamity occur. The last number of Norfolk News laments editorially that women physicians have not been duly recognized in the war effort. While Norfolk has been talking Hampden has been acting. Dr. Chapin's able successor is Dr. Eoline Dubois of Springfield. Let Hampden but give her the hearty support accorded Dr. Chapin, and Civilian Defense will continue to prosper under her leadership.

A. G. R.

Ultramicroscopically speaking (according to Nature), Piptocephalis is a parasitic mold which makes blue cheese molds bluer and the outlook for black molds darker. An idium Albicans might be said to have the Pip, e. g., another instance of 'dog eat dog'!

McKesson & Robbins, Inc.

WHOLESALE DRUGS

88 Birnie Avenue Springfield

Dear Hippocrat:

The October issue of The Hampden Hippocrat was sent to me and I was greatly interested in the news about our members in the armed services. This personal item may be of interest to your readers in an early issue.

This school includes some over 100 student officers with a small faculty in residence and a larger visiting group of lecturers. Classroom and clinical facilities are provided by the Law School of the University of Virginia. The course lasts 16 weeks and the second class is now in attendance. War Department direction comes through the Provost Marshall-General and several federal agencies collaborate in providing teaching materials and personals. The teaching is of the very best calibre and all specialties of public administration are represented, such as public health, legal, public works, and several others. The training is intended to provide military personnel with special training for the administration of civil affairs in countries re-occupied or occupied by the United Nations. I am one of seven officers from the Medical Department, four Medical and three sanitary. All branches of the army are represented by student officers and almost all are of staff rank and well over fifty years of age. Seven are from Massachusetts.

The above information is not restricted and appears more fully in the New York Herald Tribune of Sunday, November 22nd. However it would be well to restrict it to your publication.

Greetings to the gang as you encounter them.

Charles Gill
Major, Medical Corps
School of Military Government
Charlottesville, Va.

Home Address: Westfield, Massachusetts
District Health Officer
Mass. Dept. of Public Health
Westfield State Sanatorium
Westfield, Mass.

(If you want to go to foreign lands you can join Dr. Gill for your training. After the war—away to —who knows!—Ed.)

Legislation

Your legislators are Senator Nolan of Holyoke, Senator MacDonald of West Springfield, Senator Clampit of Springfield.

Representatives—Sweeney and Bresnahan of Ward 1, Markley of Ward 3, Borsa of Wards 2 and 8, Carman of Ward 4, Gray of Ward 5, Bruce of Ward 6, Barry of Ward 7, all of Springfield; Falvey and Low of Holyoke, Deroy of Chicopee, Porter of Agawam and Fausey of West Springfield, Sessions of Hampden and Brown of Brimfield, Ferriter of Westfield. If you can show your interest in medical legislation from time to time, these men will be glad to hear of it.

At present the Mass. Medical Legislation Committee opposes House Bill 252 which would do away with free choice of physician in industrial cases.

They approve of House Bill 98 for payment of Old Age Assistance bills direct to the doctor in certain cases.

They consider Senate bill No. 11 as very close to House bill 252. They approve House bill 81 which would strengthen our Board of Registration in Medicine. They approve in principle House bill No. 80 regarding examination and registration of physicians.

They approve House bill 79 which allows for the taking away of approval of medical schools for cause.

By a 6-0 vote of the Supreme Court of the United States, the American Medical Association stands convicted of monopoly in restraint of trade like any other corporate malefactor! Oh, for a union card, a forty-hour week and time and a half for over-time!

(FUNK-DUBIN)
VI-SYNERAL
The Original Vitamin-Mineral Concentrate
VITAMINS: A, B-1, B-2 (G),
C, D, E, B Complex
MINERALS: Calcium, Phosphorus, Iron,
Iodine, Manganese, Magnesium, Copper, Zinc

Massachusetts, 1941—7713 Physicians for 1-535 people
Necessary for health 1-1500 people
Physicians under 45 in 1942 4038

Have you ever noticed who our advertisers are? They have paid our bills for this year. Do you ever recognize this?

If you do not know it, your three editors have spent much time and effort on this paper. Any member who may seek an opportunity to help should begin now to feed us copy. The torch will be thrown to younger men as time goes on.

A request by the directing board of the Procurement and Assignment Service for physicians over the age of 45 to volunteer for service either in industry or in overpopulated areas is published in The Journal of the American Medical Association for December 26. The request follows:

"The directing board of the Procurement and Assignment Service for Physicians, Dentists and Veterinarians wishes immediately the name of any doctor who is willing to be dislocated for service, either in industry or in overpopulated areas, and who has not been declared essential to his present locality. This is necessary if the medical profession is to be able to meet these needs adequately and promptly. Any physician over the age of 45 who wishes to participate in the war effort in this way should send in his name immediately to the state chairman for the Procurement and Assignment Service in his state."

As a war-time measure, Cuba is considering mixing imported gasoline with 25% domestic alcohol. Could that be any deadlier than a Cuba libre?

W. E. MARTIN
Prescription Pharmacy
876 Hampden Street Holyoke

From the Norfolk Medical News—

BLUE SHIELD MEETING

"Physician members of the Board of Directors of Blue Shield, chairman of the district Professional Committees and officials of Blue Cross met for the first time on November 18, 1942.

Each district was advised to have on its Professional Committee at least four laymen and five physicians (larger districts can have more than five) and to have the administrative subcommittees made up exclusively of doctors. It was reported that:

1. 2 750 physicians have subscribed (on December 8 there were 3,072.
2. The State Insurance Commissioner will allow only $5,000 for expenses of the $25,000 turned over to him by the Massachusetts Medical ociety.
3. 86 per cent of the hospitals in the State now permit private care on wards for patients with Blue Shield and hospitalization insurance. Another 14 per cent still have to adopt this policy.
4. Blue Shield is not restricted to members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. All physicians licensed to practice in Massachusetts, including osteopaths, are eligible.
5. Blue Cross and Blue Shield officials (who are now one and the same) are engaged in a publicity campaign to inform the public that Blue Shield insurance is now available. In addition to newspaper space, free time on the radio has been allotted.

James E. Templeton & Co., Inc.
PRESCRIPTION SPECIALISTS
J. E. Templeton, Reg. Pharm.
26 Elm Street Westfield, Mass.

Surgical Supply Company
22 Railroad Street Holyoke

There has been but one solitary comment on the Hippocrat from a member of the Society. In these troublous days we are naturally deeply interested in other things. However this paper is not the plaything of the editors. It is your paper. The last thing desired is that it be run by any clique or for any special group. No particular persons' axe will be ground in this sheet.

News from one or two of the hospitals in the county should not be the sole subject matter of hospital affairs. The men in the smaller hospitals are again urged to send in contributions of interest.

News from all the men in service is encouraged. If you have letters from your friends why not jot down the interesting paragraphs and send them to 121 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Guadalcanal, November 29, 1942

Dear Hippocrat:

Last night Colonel Merritt A. Edson paid the medical department a visit at our tent. The visit was a pleasant surprise. The Colonel hails from Vermont and is a graduate of the University of Vermont. His picture appeared in recent editions of Time and Life. He is one of the military geniuses who are helping to win this war—a fighting Marine if there ever was one.

Guadalcanal is one of the southernmost of the Solomon Islands, six hundred miles south of the equator. The Solomons were so named because they once were believed to have furnished all the gold that adorned the fabulous temple of King Solomon in Jerusalem. Grassy plains, cocoanut trees, rivers, and jungles make up Guadalcanal. Besides cocoanuts, there are pineapples, lemons, limes and papayas here. Contrary to what I have read in the newspapers, I have seen only one

CHESTER'S DRUG STORE
305 APPLETON STREET
HOLYOKE MASSACHUSETTS

BACKGROUND

Three Decades of Clinical Experience

THE use of cow's milk, water and carbohydrate mixtures represents the one system of infant feeding that consistently, for three decades, has received universal periatric recognition. No carbohydrate employed in this system of infant feeding enjoys so rich and enduring a background of authoritative clinical experience as Dextri-Maltose.

DEXTRI-MALTOSE No. 1 (with 2% sodium chloride) for normal babies.
DEXTRI-MALTOSE No. 2 (plain, salt free), permits salt modifications by the physician.
DEXTRI-MALTOSE No. 3 (with 3% potassium bicarbonate), for constipated babies.

These products are hypo-allergenic

DEXTRI-MALTOSE

Please enclose professional card when requesting samples of Mead Johnson products to cooperate in preventing their reaching unauthorized persons.

Mead Johnson & Company, Evansville, Ind., U. S. A.

crocodile in all the time that I have been here, and that was dead. Conditions out here remain excellent. After a well-deserved rest, w shall look for new fields to conquer.

The rats out here are very annoying. We decided to set some ingenious rat traps. The result is that last night we caught three, and the night before six. We have a contest to see which tent can catch the most rats. To date, the medical department is ahead. We are pooling our knowledge to help dispose of such pests. You see, having killed many of the yellow rats, we are now turning our attention out here to doing away with the black rats.

There is a stiff cool breeze blowing through our tent at the present time. If it were not for the occasional cool breeze, the heat would be unbearable.

You may remember Dr. Henry P. Hopkins, who went to Cushing Academy, and also interned in the Holyoke Hospital in 1931. He is now Regimental Surgeon and I am his assistant. He is a great fellow and is doing a swell job out here.

Regarding my health, it is the same old story. I am in the very best of condition. Wish everybody here felt as well as I do; then I would have very little work to perform.

Was just interrupted by one of my corpsmen who wanted me to see a few patients. This keeps going on throughout the entire day. Time passes rapidly. It is almost a year since I have been in Holyoke. From all indications, I shall have to wait until the end of the war. So it goes. Here's hoping this mess doesn't last too long.

Noah N. Feldman
(Lt. M. C., U.S.N.R., Marine Corps
Unit No. 200
Care of P. M., San Francisco, Cal., in case you would like to write.)

This, and previous letters, written from home or abroad are a great inspiration to us all! Why can't we have more of them. Don't let 'George' do it all!—Ed.

Lieutenant Commander Feldman is now regimental surgeon and is enjoying a well deserved rest and getting ready for new conquests.—Ed.